



SBPS/24/021

19 Feb 2024

Open Letter from School Leaders 2/2024

Dear Parents,

1. Greetings! Right after the Chinese New Year festivities, the school has resumed the pace and rigour as we strive towards the end of the term. Our students can look forward to an exciting second half of Term 1, culminating in the Experiential Learning Week (ELW) in Week 10.
2. The school will be undergoing General Repair & Redecoration (GR&R) which aims to refurbish the school infrastructure and repaint all surfaces. We have decided to maintain the colour scheme for the external facade which has become synonymous with the school.

Important Information...

Safety and Security

3. Total Defence Day 2024. Introduced in 1984, Singapore celebrates 40 years of Total Defence (TD 40) this year. The theme for TD 40, “Together We Keep Singapore Strong”, underscores the various ways in which we can enact TD in our daily lives. In school, our students participated in the demonstration of first aid, viewed crime prevention exhibits and a static display of an actual Police SUV patrol vehicle. Our students also had the opportunity to experience a disruption in water supply during recess, aimed to emphasise the importance of being prepared for an emergency that could happen in our daily lives. Students then reflected on their learning during the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) and Social Studies lessons. See Figure 1 for our photographs of our students in action.

Figure 1 – TD 40 in SBPS



4. Evacuation Drill. The school conducted its first fire-related evacuation drill on 16 February, exercising the Civil Defence component of Total Defence. In the school’s context, Civil Defence aims to familiarise the school population with procedures for survival and protection. In the simulation exercise, all occupants of the school were successfully evacuated



to the designated assembly area in the school. See [Figure 2](#) for the involvement by our students and the firefighting team.

Figure 2 – SBPS READY!

		
<p>Students proceeding to the Assembly Area</p>	<p>Assembly Area where attendance was taken</p>	<p>School firefighting team</p>

5. **Safe Environment.** The school has installed rain breakers at the canteen/bookstore area to mitigate wet floors at student commute spaces in the event of a downpour (see [Figure 3](#)). In school, we will continue to address potential safety concerns through infrastructure enhancement so as to provide a safe and conducive environment for our students and staff. In addition, we will also continue to inculcate in our students a safety mindset and to embrace safety in all activities, structured or otherwise.



Figure 3 – Rain Breakers

6. **Meals and Leaving School.** For the safety and security of our students, we do not allow parents or any family members to enter the school to bring food for their children during meal or lunch breaks. If parents would like to deliver home-cooked food for your child, please make arrangement for him/her to collect the food from you at the gates. We also discourage parents from depositing food at the General Office as this will disrupt learning in class when the child is called to the General Office to collect the food.

7. If you stay near the school and wish your child to return home for lunch before re-joining school for after-school programmes, please write in to the Form Teachers via a letter or through the school’s email (sembawang_ps@moe.edu.sg). This is to facilitate the close monitoring of your child’s whereabouts. We seek your kind understanding and cooperation.

8. **P1 Road Safety Walk.** In school, we aim to inculcate in our students the importance of road safety at the earliest opportunity. All our Primary 1 students have completed the road safety walk that was conducted in the immediate vicinity of the school, where they learnt about good road safety habits comprising the kerb drill and use of the pedestrian crossing, including the overhead bridge.



Student Matters

9. Experiential Learning Week (ELW). The weeklong event will take place on the last week of Term 1, from 4 to 8 March 2024. Specially curated activities will be conducted in lieu of regular lessons, with the intent to ignite students' curiosity and foster development of essential 21st century skills, specifically in the aspect of communication, collaboration, knowledge application and independent learning. ELW provides opportunities for authentic learning, extending beyond the confines of textbooks and the traditional teaching environment. From past ELW experiences, we are confident that the learning of your child will be experiential and engaging.

10. Prefects' Investiture. The Prefect Investiture Ceremony was held on 31 January 2024. Simple yet symbolic, our Principal Mr Ng presented the prefect badges to the newly appointed P3 to P5 prefects. Our newly elected Head Prefect, Arjun Behera from 6 Respect, also addressed the student body and reaffirmed his commitment and determination to lead his team of prefects to serve the school community. Congratulations to all appointed prefects and we look forward to their contributions to the school. See Figure 4 for the group photograph of the SBPS prefects.

Figure 4 – Prefects of SBPS



11. Singapore Youth Festival (SYF). The biennial SYF Arts Presentation is a performance and benchmarking platform that offers opportunities for student performers to learn and improve their respective artistic talents through feedback from industry professionals. Our Visual and Performing Arts CCAs, namely Chinese Orchestra, Chinese Dance, Malay Dance, Indian Dance and Choir, will be participating in the SYF Arts Presentation held in April 2024. Parents are welcomed to view our students' performances by showing their support in person at the SYF performing venues. We will inform parents of student performers through our CCA teachers-in-charge once the SYF details of our performing dates are confirmed by MOE. We wish our student performers the very best for their respective performances.



Celebration of Successes...

12. 15th Global Village Children & Youth Bilingual Speech Conference. The event saw the participation of over 300 students from 40 schools. We are immensely proud of Joyce Lee Ying Xuen (4 Empathy) and Zeng Zimeng (4 Resilience) who clinched first and third placings in the competition (see Figure 5). Congratulations to both and all other students who participated in the event!



Figure 5 – Winners of 15th Global Village Children & Youth Bilingual Speech Conference

13. Lunar New Year Celebrations. Our school celebrated on the eve of the Lunar Year with a concert comprising performances by our Chinese Orchestra, Chinese dancers and Parent Support Group. A dragon dance and traditional lion dance were also amongst the highlights of the concert. Leading up to the concert, our students were engaged in classroom and recess activities such as designing New Year cards, lantern making and dragon card making, to learn more about the Chinese culture associated with the festivity (see Figure 6).

Figure 6 – Snippets of Lunar New Year Celebrations



Up-coming School Events....

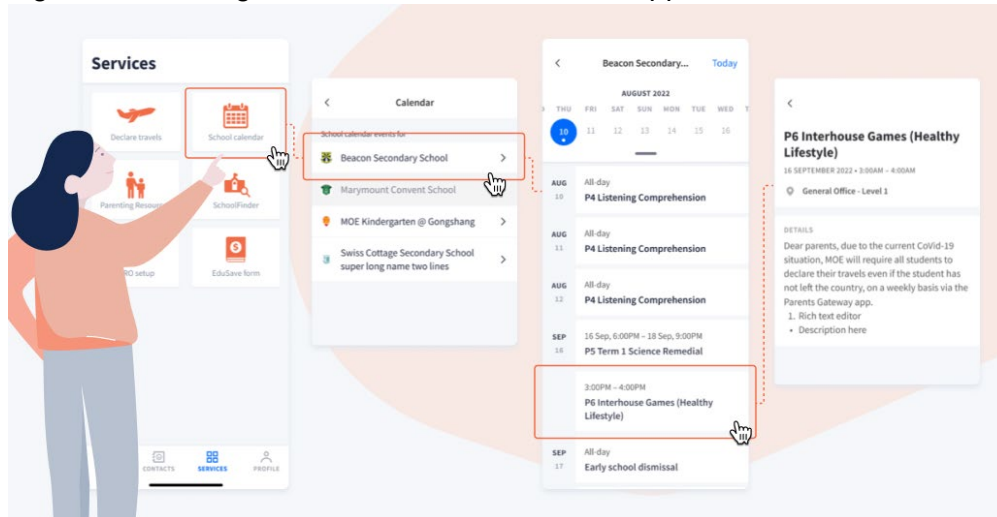
14. Dad's For Life Camp. The ever-popular camp is back with the first run scheduled from 2 to 3 March 2024 for upper primary students. The camp aims to strengthen the father-child relationship through group activities such as cooking and problem solving. We would like to thank parents and the PSG in advance for their unwavering support. Further details will be shared with the shortlisted students nearer to the date.



Miscellaneous...

15. School Calendar in Parents Gateway (PG). We are pleased to inform you that you may now view the school calendar in the PG app. You can access the calendar under the “Services” tab within your PG app to view school events (see Figure 7).

Figure 7 – Viewing the School Calendar via PG App



16. Eat-With-Your-Family Day (EWYFD). The next EWYFD falls on 8 March (Friday). To support this initiative, the General Office will close at 5.00 pm to allow our staff to leave early and spend time with their family over a meal.

Concluding Remarks...

*“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”
~Benjamin Franklin~*

17. Parents, thank you for your support, understanding and partnership in creating a memorable experience for your child in SBPS.

Warmest regards,

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